IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Abstract with the Substitute Abstract attached hereto.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 2, as follows:

1. A desulfurization method comprising removing sulfur content from liquid hydrocarbon by use of a metallic desulfurizing agent, characterized in that the method employs desulfurization conditions satisfying the following formula (1):

$$1.06\times P_{ope}^{0.44}<T_{ope}/T_{50}<1.78\times P_{ope}^{0.22} \cdots(1)$$

(wherein T_{ope} represents operation temperature (°C); P_{ope} represents operation pressure (MPa); and T_{50} represents a temperature per 50 percent recovered as determined by "test method for distillation at atmospheric pressure" stipulated in JIS K2254 "Petroleum products – Determination of distillation characteristics") as revised in 1998.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 27, as follows:

The desulfurization method according to the present invention comprising removing sulfur content from liquid hydrocarbon by use of a metallic desulfurizing agent without performing addition of hydrogen, characterized in that the method employs desulfurization conditions satisfying the following formula (1):

$$1.06\times P_{ope}^{0.44}<T_{ope}/T_{50}<1.78\times P_{ope}^{0.22} \cdots(1)$$

(wherein T_{ope} represents operation temperature (°C); P_{ope} represents operation pressure (MPa); and T_{50} represents a temperature per 50 percent recovered as determined by "test method for distillation at atmospheric pressure" stipulated in JIS K2254 "Petroleum products – Determination of distillation characteristics") as revised in 1998.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 19, as follows:

In the above formulae, T_{ope} represents operation temperature (°C); P_{ope} represents operation pressure (MPa); and T_{50} represents a temperature per 50 percent recovered as determined by "test method for distillation at atmospheric pressure" stipulated in JIS K2254 "Petroleum products – Determination of distillation characteristics.~~"~~" as revised in 1998. When the unit of operation pressure is changed from MPa to kg/cm^2 A, the aforementioned formulae (1) and (2) are reduced to the following formulae (1') and (2'):

$0.38\times P_{ope}^{0.44}<T_{ope}/T_{50}<1.07\times P_{ope}^{0.22}$ ···(1') and

$0.53\times P_{ope}^{0.35}<T_{ope}/T_{50}<0.96\times P_{ope}^{0.24}$ ···(2').

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 19, as follows:

The distillation characteristics of liquid hydrocarbons shown in Table 1 were determined by "test method for distillation at atmospheric pressure" stipulated in JIS K2254 "Petroleum products – Determination of distillation characteristics.~~"~~" as revised in 1998.